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1. During October and up to mid-November 1947 large-scale Soviet Army maneuvers took place in the area Eisenach - Gotha - Erfurt - Oberhof - Ohrdruf Training Area, all arms of the service including cavalry and the Soviet Air Force being represented.
2. During this period formations of fighters, single-engined bombers, and ground-attack aircraft were daily observed in the air, the chief role of these Soviet Air Force units being support of the ground troops. The single-engined bombers were frequently sent to attack formations, which included tank units and represented the enemy, and bombed them with live-filled sacks. The ground-attack aircraft were mainly employed in formations and were particularly observed to attack columns of men on the march, flying in at right angles to the line of march in very open formation of 25 - 27 aircraft. The approach flight was made where possible over wooded territory. The fighters were chiefly employed as protection against enemy air attack and were observed to combat attacking ground-attack or fighter-bomber formations. The fighter formations appeared to hold together very poorly and too frequently split up, which gave the impression that they were not successful in their defensive role of warding off the attacking fighter-bomber and ground-attack formations flying in close formation.
3. During these maneuvers much firing practice with live ammunition took place. Firing practice by heavy equipment, especially artillery, took place on Ohrdruf Training Area, the heaviest artillery employed being 210-240 mm hows. Shoots were also carried out near Eisenach and Erfurt, particular targets in these two areas (according to local Soviet Komendatory) being rail and road junctions. A shoot involving all divisional equipment also took place along the Eisenach-Erfurt railway line in which railway installations were affected and an unauthorized freight train on the line shot up.
4. Maneuvers of divisional formations in the Erfurt area finished in the second week of October with the taking of Erfurt by assault. All life in the town was held up for three days and civilians were instructed to remain indoors. Approximately one rifle division, with tanks allotted to it, approximately two artillery regiments under command and very strongly supported by AA guns.

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formations, were used to defend the town, while the attacking force consisted of approximately one tank division, one motorized rifle division and an artillery unit of some three-four regiments. Both sides were given air support. The attacking force used the types of aircraft mentioned above and also twin-engined bombers. (At no other time during these maneuvers were twin-engined bombers observed). Protection of the flanks of the attacking force was partly carried out by cavalry.

5. The defense relied chiefly on their heavy weapons, particularly the AA guns which were mounted on all corners, squares, and wherever a suitable place could be found. By the third day of the assault the house fighting stage was reached.
6. During the maneuvers the accommodations on Erfurt Airfield which had previously been released to house Germans, was re-requisitioned and occupied by approximately 5,000 troops. These accommodations had not been completely vacated by mid-November 1947.
7. After the conclusion of the maneuvers, new garrison troops were stationed in Erfurt.

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